

Series I  
Correspondence,  
1932-1973

Box 1, Folder 32

December 26,  
1945 - December  
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MOTOR TORPEDO BOAT SQUADRONS PACIFIC FLEET  
Office of the Commander

26 December 1945

American Trust Company  
Mark Street  
Alameda, California

Gentlemen:

Please change my address as follows:

Commodore Richard Waller Bates, USN  
Chief of Staff, Philippine Sea Frontier  
c/o Fleet Post Office  
San Francisco, California.

I should appreciate a statement once in a while concerning my account. It is quite possible that you are addressing all statements to my brother, but he is only a co-addressee, and I feel that I am entitled to some knowledge of my own account.

Very truly yours,

R. W. BATES  
Commodore, USN.

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MOTOR TORPEDO BOAT SQUADRONS PACIFIC FLEET  
Office of the Commander

26 December 1945

Dear Henry,

It was extremely nice of you to be so thoughtful as to look out for me for such a long time during my stay at Guam. It is a little difficult for me to believe that the Governor of that great island sat up and "shot the breeze" with me for three or more hours during the early morning. I have always known that you were of an extremely generous nature, but I never had a full realization as to what extent you were so generous until the other night.

I am delighted that you are now in your new headquarters, which seem to be perfectly delightful, and I trust that not in the too distant future the Navy Department will authorize Mrs. Larson to come there and put on the finishing touches, which only the feminine hand seems able to produce in changing a house to a home.

My flight over here from there was an excellent one, and I enjoyed the smooth weather which we generally encountered. It is a surprising thing, however, that Guam or somebody thinks so little of Samar as to detour around us with their planes at the slightest provocation. I will be leaving for Manila in a matter of about three days, where, I understand, the mail is better served, but I still can not but feel sympathetic with everyone in the Samar Area who is forced to forego the satisfaction in receiving mail. Although I was away eight days, I received only one letter during that time and none since. This is the experience of "all hands". If you can use any influence to insure a little better service, I think it would be helpful to the morale of many thousands, both afloat and ashore, in the Samar Area.

I hope that you get to Washington as you planned, and, if you do get there, I hope that you will make that comment to Admiral Nimitz to which you referred. It won't hurt me a bit to have the Marine Commanding General extol me to the big boss, however, I know that others in the Pacific have done so. Whether it was Admiral King who blocked me, I don't know. I can not believe that Admiral Nimitz would do so.

I hope that you had a most enjoyable Christmas - even though away from home and your loved ones. You have been in Guam for quite a time now and are entitled to some relaxation along the family line. As for myself, I am now in my thirtieth month in the Pacific, with but one trip home - my trip to Washington on duty. I think they hold that against me, although it was not at my request, but because Admiral Nimitz wished me to tell them in Washington about suicide planes.

If you get to Manila, do not fail to see me, as I am always happy to share my time.

1 0 0 1

With best wishes for the New Year, I am

Very sincerely yours,

R. W. DATES  
Commodore, USN.

General Henry Larson, U.S.M.C.  
Military Governor  
United States Marine Corps  
Navy #926  
c/o Fleet Post Office  
San Francisco, California.

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MOTOR TORPEDO BOAT SQUADRONS PACIFIC FLEET  
Office of the Commander

26 December 1945

Dear Eloise,

You may have wondered what has happened to me all these months -- ever since you kindly wrote me a letter from the Veteran's Hospital -- but your letter got misplaced and it was only as I was changing command that I encountered it. I want you to know, though, that at the time I received it, I was extremely gratified that you had remembered me. Needless to say, my days at the Navy Department, with you as my secretary, were extremely happy ones, and your confidence in handling the broad problems connected with publications relieved me of an enormous mental effort.

I remember particularly well when you became captain of the ladies bowling team of the Bureau of Engineers and the great interest you showed in the many tournaments which you and your feminine friends entered. You bloomed in that job with me from a bud into a full grown flower, and I remember with great interest the great many admirers that you had around you. I have always thought that Mr. Shaner was an extremely fortunate gentleman!

Your handle to my name was not correct. I think that is the reason that I lost your letter, because you addressed it to "Admiral Bates" when, as a matter of fact, it was "Commodore". I should have much preferred the handle "Admiral", but our beloved friend, Ernest J. King, had other ideas and his "might" was greater than mine!

I have been quite interested, in re-reading your letter, to note that you talk about Helen; so I suppose that she is still in Washington. I have always wondered whether she married that steady "beau" of her's, to whom she used to give the run-around so frequently. I was interested, also, in your comments about my cruiser. There is no doubt but that the MINNEAPOLIS excelled, and she should certainly have been given a Navy citation! I was informed that the reason she was not, was that, although she was outstanding, she was not enough so, over her sisters, to give her this desired citation.

No, I have never married, and sometimes I am regretful about it. I advertise marriage to all my friends, however, and I train my women so "damn" well that everyone seeks one "Bates-trained"! The result of this is that I either have "to put up or shut up", as the competition usually gets serious. So far, I have decided to "shut up", and my charming trainees have married others. The remarkable thing about all of them, however, is that they are extremely happy, and all of the husbands could not be more friendly than they are to me. Each of them thinks that, because his wife

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is so remarkable, he, himself, also must have been remarkable to have been able to steal her away from me. So, when I appear, they treat me as though I were most unfortunate, and do all they can so that I won't feel badly when I see one of my old "flames" as a wife! I think I ought to hire out as a prospective wife-trainer, somewhat along the lines of Mr. Anthony, and, I think, as for the Voice of Experience, mine is just as "loud" as his!

I regret that your husband was unable to get into the war, and, particularly, the Sea Bees, as they are a wonderful organization and have done marvelously throughout the Western Pacific. I have no doubt but that he would have done very well, indeed, in any assignment of that nature. Having tamed you, I have no doubt but that he would have found the Japs as "small potatoes"!

I am changing my address from Commander, Motor Torpedo Boats Pacific, to Chief of Staff, Philippine Sea Frontier, c/o FPO, San Francisco, Calif. The motor torpedo boats are no longer considered desirable, apparently - at least, motor torpedo boats of our present type - and, therefore, most of them have been decommissioned. My new job in the Philippines should be of greater interest, because there will be a change of government and other matters of equal interest occurring within the next few months.

I haven't heard any new jokes recently, but I will enclose something that someone sent to me, which you may find amusing.

With warmest personal regards to yourself and to your husband, and with many, many thanks for your thoughtfulness in writing to me when you thought that I had been honored by the advancement to Admiral, I am

Very sincerely yours,

R. W. BATES  
Commodore, USN.

Mrs. Edgar F. Shaner  
Lyons, New Jersey

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MOTOR TORPEDO BOAT SQUADRONS PACIFIC FLEET  
Office of the Commander

26 December 1945

My dear Mr. Hall:

My brother, Jocelyn, informed me some time ago that you had presented me - through him - a large bottle of Major Grey's chutney, and that it was to be sent to me.

I can not thank you too much for your thoughtfulness in my behalf, and I shall appreciate your chutney more than you can possibly imagine. As my brother, Jocelyn, has probably told you, my father was born in India and, therefore, my family has become curry-minded. Also in the Navy, in certain officers messes, curry is an important item. I, as you might imagine from the above, am a real curry fancier.

So far as I know, there are but two chutneys which are highly considered; one, Major Grey's; the other, Colonel Skinner's. You can, therefore, imagine my delight at discovering that my empty pantry was to be re-bottled through your kind assistance.

I understand that you are a great friend of Mr. Nelson French, for whom I have a high regard. As you probably know, he sent me a bottle which I was most pleased to receive, you can be sure, and when I heard that you were sending me one also, I thought Santa Claus had arrived in the middle of the year.

I hope that you will forgive my delay in writing to you, but I want you to know that it is not through a lack of appreciation. It merely happened that, in combat and in changing commands, my brother's letter was misplaced until now.

With best wishes for a happy New Year, I am

Very sincerely yours,

R. W. BATES  
Commodore, USN.

Mr. Thomas F. Hall  
c/o Hotel Roosevelt  
Hollywood, California

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MOTOR TORPEDO BOAT SQUADRONS PACIFIC FLEET  
Office of the Commander

27 December 1945

Dear Captain Liberty:

In another day the Command, Motor Torpedo Boat Squadrons, Pacific Fleet, will be dissolved, and the U.S.S. ACONTIUS - which has been the Flagship of that Command - will have commenced her long return to the States. I, therefore, desire to seize this opportunity of writing to you to commend you upon your handling of the ACONTIUS since you succeeded to command, about two months ago.

When you took command of the ACONTIUS, she was still suffering from her overhaul alongside the tender and was not, in my mind, up to the standard which I expect of my ships. I, therefore, noted with interest the manner with which you commenced its renovation. You have worked hard and long to make the ACONTIUS into a smart ship, and it appears as if the entire Ship's Company reflect your attitude. You have a deep interest in the personnel of your command and in their morale, and you are constantly thinking of them and of means in which to improve their welfare. You should realize that such actions on the part of a Commanding Officer are rarely missed by his seniors.

In my experience with you, I have noted that you are a capable Captain, that you understand your ship, that you have confidence in your ability to handle your ship under difficult conditions, and, finally, I have noted that, when the situations arose, you maintained a calm demeanor and acted correctly.

I have enjoyed my stay on the ACONTIUS very much, and, although I regret that I was unable to take her to Okinawa and into Japan, that was a matter quite beyond my authority. However, our stay in Leyte has been helpful in assisting in the decommissioning and demobilizing of a great Fleet, and the part the ACONTIUS played in that decommissioning was equalled by no tender in the area. In fact, it is my belief that the ACONTIUS did better work, over the entire time, and accomplished more than any other tender, and this is a little unusual; in that the ACONTIUS belonged to the Pacific Fleet, whereas the PT boats, under overhaul, belonged to the Philippine Sea Frontier.

I think that you can return to the States feeling that you and your command have done their full share in bringing victory to the United States in this great war of the Pacific, and I trust that, upon return home, things will be much better than are anticipated from here. I also trust that you will have the opportunity, which, I hope, will be granted to many of the personnel, of being home, at least for awhile, with your family.

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With best wishes for the New Year, I am

Very sincerely yours,

R. W. BATES  
Commodore, USN.

Lieut. Comdr. Franklin P. Liberty  
Commanding Officer, U.S.S. ACONTIUS (AGP-12)  
c/o Fleet Post Office  
San Francisco, California.

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MOTOR TORPEDO BOAT SQUADRONS PACIFIC FLEET  
Office of the Commander

27 December 1945

Dear Peggy and Andy,

It was awfully nice of you, during my short stay in Pearl Harbor, to have invited me out to dinner with your family. Needless to say, I enjoyed the privilege very much, indeed, although, at the time, I was exceedingly tired. I shouldn't have accepted your invitation for that day, but I was afraid that my stay in Hawaii would be so short that I wouldn't get another chance to see my beloved friends of so many years. So, I took the liberty of imposing upon you a tired individual, who received happiness and renewed vigor at the sight of the "song birds of the islands".

I was delighted in seeing your children and to note how well they have grown. They are fine young men, and you are exceptionally fortunate - as they are - in having them, and they, in having you. I was glad to note that Leith had improved, because I know that that night you were worried about him. Your young daughter, also, is going to be a darling. She is still right young, but is full of the "old Nick", and I haven't any doubt but what the Island of Oahu will be shaken to its foundations as she reaches her feminine maturity. The roar of the young man - running to your home to see her - will probably sound to veterans in Hawaii like the roar of American attacking planes!

My Command of the Motor Torpedo Boats Pacific will probably be dissolved tomorrow, and then I report to Manila for duty as Chief of Staff for the Philippine Sea Frontier. It ought to be a very interesting assignment, because there will be a change of government in the Philippines and a Presidential election, both of which I am quite interested in, not only from a political viewpoint, but also from the viewpoint of an interested mortal.

Tonight the officers of my Staff, of the Flagship, and of the Staffs of associated commands on Samar are giving me a farewell party at the Officers Club here. Apparently, there will be a large attendance, and I thoroughly appreciate the kindness of everyone to think enough of me to give me this "aloha". We won't have the pig of the Hawaiian luau, but I hear rumors that we will have turkey of the American table, which will do equally well.

I want to wish you all happiness for the New Year and to tell you that now, as always, I cannot think of Hawaii without thinking of both of you.

God be with you always! As ever

Your old Kamaaina friend,

R. W. BATES  
Commodore, USN.

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MOTOR TORPEDO BOAT SQUADRONS PACIFIC FLEET  
Office of the Commander

27 December 1945

Dear Lieutenant Commander Wark:

In a day or so you will be leaving for the States on board the U.S.S. ACONTIUS and will report in at Los Angeles to complete the historical work which you are doing. I, therefore, am seizing this opportunity of writing you a letter to bid you "aloha", because it is possible, that, upon completion of your historical work, you will be released to inactive duty.

I am interested in your work for two reasons. The first reason had to do with your performance of duty as Commander of Motor Torpedo Boat Squadron Thirty-Two. The second has to do with your performance as the Motor Torpedo Boat Pacific Fleet Historian.

As regards your motor torpedo boat activities, it is of interest to note that Squadron 32, which you commanded, was commissioned at the Municipal Yacht Club Basin, New Orleans, Louisiana, in June 1944. The first six boats left the United States 27 August of the same year, and the last six boats left on 27 October 1944. All of these boats were designated for the Treasury Islands of the Solomon Group, where they finally arrived - the last group reaching there on 18 January 1945. These boats were used at Treasury on patrols at Bougainville, Choiseul, and surrounding islands. Later they were based at Espiritu Santo in the New Hebrides Islands, where they remained for a number of months. As the war moved to the north, and as the Motor Torpedo Boats Pacific became reactivated, your Squadron was sent to Okinawa where it functioned in air-sea rescue patrols. In this air-sea rescue work it functioned admirably! Squadron Thirty-Two was not engaged in combat operations during all of this time, with the single exception that on 31 December 1944 it, in conjunction with other units, participated in a daylight raid at Bougainville, but encountered no opposition. During your command of this Squadron it, therefore, was primarily engaged in inactive patrols and training, and it is a remarkable tribute to your capacity as a Commander that the morale of your personnel and the condition of your boats was maintained at the high pitch it showed upon my inspection of it.

With regard to your present duties as Historian for Motor Torpedo Boats Pacific, I can not say too much for the results of your efforts. You seem to have a natural knack of coordinating facts into an interesting narrative, and you also have the singular ability of coordinating your subordinate historians, who have definite opinions, into a smooth working organization, with the product of each historian very well coordinated into the work of the others and with, roughly, the same grammatical structure.

I shall be always mindful of the fact that you came down here of your own volition, after you had obtained sufficient points to permit you to be

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released from the Navy, and gave up your time to this historical work. Needless to say, I shall miss you, and I hope you desire to remain in the Navy. Should you not choose to do so, I feel confident that the same qualities which made you so successful in the Navy will carry you through to prosperity and success in civilian life. I must make a final request of you, however, should you go into civilian life; and that is to always give the Navy your support in future years, when it needs it.

With best wishes for a Happy New Year, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

R. W. BATES  
Commodore, USN.

Lieutenant Commander Robert C. Wark, USNR  
Staff - COMINTERRONSPACFLT  
c/o Fleet Post Office  
San Francisco, California

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MOTOR TORPEDO BOAT SQUADRONS PACIFIC FLEET  
Office of the Commander

27 December 1945

National Board of Medical Examiners  
225 South 15th Street  
Philadelphia 2, Pennsylvania

Gentlemen:

It has come to my attention that Lieutenant (jg) G. T. Hoffmann, (MC), USNR, is a candidate for admission as a Diplomate of the National Board of Medical Examiners. I should like, therefore, to take this opportunity of telling you what I think of Doctor Hoffmann who, during the three months that he has been on my Flagship, has served as my medical advisor, not only in my own personal situations, but as regards the general health of my Command and of the immediate area in the Philippines, where we have been operating.

Doctor Hoffmann is naturally a young medical man without the broad knowledge that comes from experience, but, in my mind, he has done exceptionally well and has been of great help to me. He seems to have an excellent practical knowledge of both medicine and sanitation, and he devotes himself constantly to continued study of both of these difficult subjects. The health of my Command has been very high, owing, in a large part, to the assistance rendered by Doctor Hoffmann.

In passing, I should like to point out that Doctor Hoffmann is a very friendly gentleman and is well-liked, apparently, by both officers and men. He makes friends readily and is modest and unassuming. I should like, therefore, to recommend him to you for membership in your Society.

Very truly yours,

R. W. BATES  
Commodore, USN.

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MOTOR TORPEDO BOAT SQUADRONS PACIFIC FLEET  
Office of the Commander

28 December 1945

Dear Claire,

I can not thank you too much for the shopping you did for me. As I look at this blue sheet, which you sent my brother, listing there such erotic specimens, as Crepe Suzettes, Rum Babas and patie de foi gras, I realize that the dividends must be rolling in at the house of Ellworthy and Company in a manner in which I had not visualized previously. It was extremely thoughtful of you to do this purchasing, and I am wondering with interest why it was that you chose these items for me. Very frankly, I can't imagine anything I should prefer to have in the Manila Area than these above mentioned delicacies.

As a matter of interest, I wish you to know that these items have not as yet arrived, and there is no telling when they will arrive. Fortunately, they are all canned and should arrive in excellent condition, if and when they do. It is a regretful fact, but mail is very badly handled in the Pacific these days and nearly everyone is suffering adversely because of a non-receipt of mail. Second-class mail encounters even more difficult transportation problems.

You may be interested to know -- and this should not break your heart over these items which you are sending to me -- but I have not as yet received last year's Christmas presents, although in November I received a book which had been sent to me one year before.

I want to thank you very much and all of your firm for your friendly interest in me, which you have extended over the years, and I hope, within the coming year, to be able to march into Ellworthy and Company and say "hello" to "all hands".

With best wishes for the New Year, I am

Very sincerely yours,

R. W. BATES  
Commodore, USN.

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MOTOR TORPEDO BOAT SQUADRONS PACIFIC FLEET  
Office of the Commander

28 December 1945

Dear Miss Gallagher,

It was awfully nice of you to think of me over Christmas by sending me that most attractive Greetings Card. Very frankly, when I received it and saw the name "Gladys", I was staggered for the moment, and then I realized that it was none other than from your lovely self, which made me more appreciative than ever.

I am sorry to hear that your weather at home is zero with lots of snow, and I have no doubt but that you do - as you say - miss the Pacific heat. Fortunately, the Samar Area, at this time, is quite cool and pleasant, although it rains a little more than we think is necessary.

There are now three Red Cross young ladies in lieu of the famous "two", of Anderson and Gallagher, who controlled the situation during the combat days. These young ladies are Miss Pascoe, Miss Milbauer, and Miss Scudger. They are all perfectly charming and fit very well into the post-war scene at the Base.

All of the motor torpedo boats have now been decommissioned, and the entire Command is being decommissioned tomorrow. This will mean that there will be no more active motor torpedo boats in the Pacific, which is a blow to many who would have liked to remain in them for the present.

As for myself, I am going up to join Admiral Kauffman as Chief of Staff for the Philippine Sea Frontier tomorrow, and there, I expect to run into many Red Cross young ladies again; but, I can assure you, I don't ever expect to encounter two as capable as both of you were in ministering to the men of the PT Command. If you don't do anything else in your life, you can always look back to the fact that you contributed, in a great way, towards the welfare and contentment of Base 17, and, therefore, towards the successful end of the war.

Thanks again for writing to me, and do let me know if you finally catch that young man who, you seemed to think, was becoming somewhat elusive.

With best wishes for the New Year, I am

Very sincerely yours,

R. W. BATES  
Commodore, USN.

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MOTOR TORPEDO BOAT SQUADRONS PACIFIC FLEET  
Office of the Commander

28 December 1945

Dear Bonte,

I was very pleased to receive your letter of 23 November, and I am hastening to reply to it, although I am pretty busy; as my entire Motor Torpedo Boat Command will be dissolved tomorrow. No PT squadrons will be active in the Navy. However, four boats of Squadron 42 will be retained on the East Coast for experimental purposes.

As I said above, tomorrow the entire Command will be officially dissolved, and I am to report to Vice Admiral Kauffman as Chief of Staff for the Philippine Sea Frontier. I am sure that it will be very interesting and a lot of fun. I always have fun where the going is rough! I knew, when you left here, that you would soon feel Navy-sick. Having been in the Navy five years, as you say, and having learned the value of the association of man with man, it is very difficult to throw it all aside for the life of the normal civilian. If you will remember, I made a pronouncement to the Staff on this subject and advised them not to talk about quitting the Navy, but just to say that they have not as yet decided.

I was glad to see that you succeeded in getting a good job with Henry Kaiser, because it shows that your civilian reputation must be high. Your Navy reputation is also high, and I know that you did excellently as a squadron commander, and evidently were highly thought of at the Navy War College. For a time you did well on my Staff and then you were caught in that whirlpool of going-home, which upset you completely. Although members of my Staff have criticized you to me, and several squadron commanders did also, for letting down as you did, I have told all of them that I have no feeling that way in the matter. When a world is as upset as ours was with the demobilization violently under way, and the public and the press and the Congress screaming that it was urgent to bring the men home, I can not but feel that it was only the strongest men who were not affected by this.

I think that you will do well in the Navy if you choose to come in. You are bright and intelligent and make friends readily, and, until you let down at the end of the war, everyone had a very fine word for you. You have a tendency, in civilian life, to want to change your jobs fairly frequently, and I commented on this to you one day, I think, as I looked over your previous occupation sheet. In civilian life this is not a good thing, but in the Navy it is an excellent thing, because nobody remains in any job very long - three years, at the most, and generally, considerably less. So this characteristic, which might act adversely in civilian life, would merely be normal in the Navy. So, if I were you, if I felt that I wasn't going to enjoy my civilian life and if I felt that the Navy were more to my liking, I wouldn't hesitate to apply for retention in the active Navy. There is only

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one possible fly in this ointment, and that might be your age. I can not recall from here exactly how old you are, but it would be advisable for you to look into that to insure, if you do desire to come in, that you will not be old among your fellows. Mind you, I don't think that you are old, but I have an idea that you told me that you were nearly 35.

The PT boys gave me a farewell party last night at the new Officers Club at Base 17, and it was "swell". There was a very large attendance, both male and female, and, from what I hear and from the looks of some of those who attended, I would say the party was highly successful. I am certainly gratified by their desire to give me this "aloha".

Take care of yourself, and if I can do anything to help you, advise me and I will do what I can.

With best wishes for the New Year, I am

Very sincerely yours,

R. W. BATES  
Commodore, USN.

Lieut. Comdr. John S. Bonte  
71 Carritos Avenue  
San Francisco, California

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MOTOR TORPEDO BOAT SQUADRONS PACIFIC FLEET  
Office of the Commander

28 December 1945

Dear Lieutenant Gracey:

Tomorrow this Staff will be dissolved and the Type Command of Motor Torpedo Boats Pacific will be but a memory. At the same time, you will be returning home to take advantage of the opportunity of remaining in the Regular Navy or, if not acceptable because of age, you will be returning home to become a civilian again.

I am, therefore, taking this opportunity of thanking you for your loyal services to me throughout the recent months, when you served as Flag Secretary and personal Aide on my Staff. The work you were doing was relatively new to you, and I can assure you that I well know that Naval correspondence is a very difficult subject to master! Still, you and your office force succeeded so admirably in this regard that, so far as I have been able to discover, we have made no mistakes. The fact that no correspondence whatsoever has been lost within the ship is, of itself, an exploit of no mean character.

You are a very friendly and personable officer, and, I think you have done a great deal of good on the Staff and in the ship in your association with others. I like your athletic proclivities, and I think your assistance in keeping the volley ball sport under way has contributed a great deal towards the health of the officer personnel who engaged in it with such happiness. You have probably discovered in your athletic life that people like to indulge in athletics, but in the vast majority of cases they must be invited! As a verification of this, just think of our communication personnel and Mr. Woolsey, who had to be practically dragged out, but whom it was hard to keep from playing once they had discovered the fun in it.

I appreciate all the friendly things you have done for me. You have been a very good personal Aide and have made my duties much more pleasant than they might have been by your loyalty to me, not only personally, but elsewhere. The party given in my honor last night, I know that you assisted in organizing, and I can not thank you too much for it. It was a great success!

I hope that you will be able to remain in the Navy and that the several years, which the department indicates may deny you the privilege, will be waived. The Navy needs fighting men - it needs men who are personable and friendly, and it needs men who are healthy and understanding! In all of these items you excel. Should you, however, not remain in the Navy, I hope that you will always cast your voice in defense of the Navy, and of the Army,

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and of the Air Force as well, as all of them, on occasions, will need your help. Such is the way of democracies!

With warmest personal regards and with best wishes for the New Year, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

R. W. BATES  
Commodore, USN.

Lieutenant C. B. Gracey, USNR  
Staff - MTB Squadrons Pacific Fleet  
c/o Fleet Post Office  
San Francisco, California.

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MOTOR TORPEDO BOAT SQUADRONS PACIFIC FLEET  
Office of the Commander

28 December 1945

Dear Holderness:

This letter is one of those things that we hear of repeatedly, and I am forwarding it to you for any action that you may care to take on the premises, providing, of course, that R.E. Direcktor, CM3/c, is attached to your Command.

As you see, Commander Ralston does not expect too much, so don't allow yourself to be over perturbed by this.

Best regards,

R. W. BATES  
Commodore, USN.

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MOTOR TORPEDO BOAT SQUADRONS PACIFIC FLEET  
Office of the Commander

28 December 1945

Dear E.B.,

Needless to say, your letter caught me by surprise, as I haven't heard from you for an extremely long time. I am glad to see that you were fit enough to be back in the Navy during the war, although I should have liked it better had I noted that you had retired as a Captain.

I always remember that you left Maryland in disgust and advised me to stay away! Your advice was very sound, and I would have saved myself a lot of trouble with our mutual engineer friend had I been able to do what you suggested. Someone, I think, notified the Navy Department, however, because they wrote me that no change in my duty would be authorized.

With reference to your young friend, Robert E. Birecktor, CM3/c; he is no longer under my command. He was under my command until sometime ago, when he was transferred to the Philippine Sea Frontier, and, at this present writing, I have no definite idea of his present location. I understand that it is possible that he is at the Ship Repair Base at Manicani Island, Leyte Gulf. I will forward your letter to Captain Holderness, who is in command there.

Don't expect too much, as carpenters are as rare as Diogenes' honest man, and Manicani Island and other repair bases hold on to their carpenters as they do their teeth! Should, however, the young lad's mother become seriously ill, the Navy will make no effort to hold him but will return him, where he will be of help to her.

Best wishes for the New Year. I am,

Very sincerely yours,

R. W. BATES  
Commodore, USN.

Comdr. Byron B. Balston, USN (Ret.)  
105 Corlies Avenue  
Pelham, New York

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MOTOR TORPEDO BOAT SQUADRONS PACIFIC FLEET  
Office of the Commander

28 December 1945

Dear Lieutenant Nortons

During my absence at Pearl, you were detached from command of the CALLISTO and were ordered home for release to inactive duty. I am, therefore, seizing this opportunity, prior to my own detachment which will occur tomorrow, to write you a letter to thank you very much for your services to this command and to the Flag during this war.

I can not discuss your previous service in the Navy prior to reporting to the Motor Torpedo Boat Command here at Leyte, but I do know here that your ship, the CALLISTO, did very well, indeed.

You succeeded to command in Pearl Harbor and brought the CALLISTO to the Philippines, where you were made immediately available to assist in the decommissioning program. Your ship at first found this work difficult, but, under your steady hand and excellent leadership, she improved rapidly; so much so that near the end of the decommissioning program she was reported by everyone as doing the finest work in all of the tenders. I want to congratulate you upon this exceptional result and to bid you Godspeed in your life in the civilian world, which, I understand, it is your plan to resume after having been released.

In following civilian life I request that you remain, at all times, mindful of the Navy and all Arms of the military defense and will give them your backing in case of need.

With best wishes for the New Year, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

R. W. BATES  
Commodore, USN.

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